

Minutes of Tuesday, May 3, 2011, CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:29 pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, S. Krishnan, S. Rajagopal, D. Stillinger, and Don Travisano

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2011 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has been sent to the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from April 5, 2011 were approved, motioned by S. Carroll and 2nd by P. Collington, with all in favor.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2011 AND JANUARY 2012.

Every first Tuesday except no meeting in July. Chatham Township municipal building 7:15 PM: June 7, July no meeting, Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6 in 2011, and second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:45-8:45) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair

Discussion took place regarding the Natural Resources Inventory revision (NRI). NRI Committee met on 4/18/11 and decided that they will do most of the updating themselves and with help from volunteers. Also, assistance from Township Engineer John Ruschke and Township Planner Frank Banisch to work on open space portion. K. Abbott will submit press release requesting volunteers for tasks.

The Green Team meeting of 4/12/11 was not well attended. S. Carroll concluded that too much work, time and effort was put into creating the public meeting for the amount of response received. Don and Subashree will collaborate on an informational job description geared towards volunteers, which can be handed out at next CTEC event.

Steve would like to send out another mailing with the tax bills. Reviewed new actions available for sustainable points.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. PSE&G ROW. Application dated 3-16-11, envelope to EC postmarked 4-18-11. Application to NJDEP for a wetlands GP12 (General Permit) for geotechnical investigation in the ROW for the proposed transmission line upgrade. No comment from CTEC as of yet.

PENDING. FAIRMOUNT AVENUE & JOHNSON DRIVE. 3-4-11. Block 38, Lots 44 & 45. Primavera Parkview, LLC. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 2 lot minor subdivision on corner of Fairmount and Johnson. Currently one house on the two lots. Propose to change lot lines so one lot fronts on Johnson Drive and one on Fairmount instead of both fronting on Fairmount as they do now. Currently there are 93 trees over 6", will remove 49. Proposed new lot 44.01 will have 3,423 SF usable lot area (7,000 required) - both current lots have about 7,000 SF usable lot area. Question - why change lot lines when both lots now have required usable lot area? Both proposed lots will have municipal water and sewers, and both proposed lots appear to be well under the allowed impervious coverage. EC should ask Planning Board to require a 30 foot wide conservation easement on the upper sloped area (15-25% slopes) along the west property line on the proposed two new lots.

NEW. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. The EIS prepared by PK Environmental is quite good and better than most that are reviewed by CTEC. Two nearby homes are on septic and one

home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. CTEC will eventually have a site visit.

- Suggest that the request for no sidewalks be granted on condition that a bicycle lane be striped on Longview and Mountainside.
- Suggest that a walking/biking trail easement from Susan Drive to Longview Avenue along the eastern property line of proposed lot 20 be given to the Township.
- Suggest that the detention basin be over-engineered (enlarged, deepened) and that there be an agreement allowing Chatham Township to correct basin maintenance deficiencies and bill the homeowners if deficiencies are not corrected by the homeowners association.
- Suggest that Planning Board require a conservation easement on the 3 vacant lots downslope from Longview (B 32, L 2, 6, 8), which have steep slopes over 25% on more than half of each lot and which are not proposed to be subdivided or developed.
- Suggest that the cul-de-sac be eliminated thus saving at least 10 trees.
- Suggest design of detention basin be altered to save more of the proposed 16 trees to be removed.
- Suggest the number of the 45 trees to be removed in the roadway be reduced.

PENDING. Verizon Wireless. 11-16-10. Block 48.14 Lot 110 (the Gazebo lot on Southern Blvd.) Application to Board of Adjustment for use, setback and height variances to erect antennas on an existing PSE&G tower. NJDEP has granted a GP#2 (work on utility lines) for disturbance of 510 s.f. of wetlands near the rear of the parking lot to put a utility line underground, and there will be a non-staffed equipment shed that will be visited for maintenance once a month. Applicant has obtained all required documents from NJDEP and US Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2009 Township Forester John Linson commented, "If it (the equipment shed) looks like a disguised wireless equipment shelter, it will permanently diminish the aesthetic value of the park. If the building is redesigned to fit the park, few people will ever notice it." Suggest CTEC send a memo to Board of Adjustment suggesting careful shed design, monitoring of work to ensure wetlands are not disturbed beyond that allowed, submission of landscape plan for revegetation in area of disturbance with a provision of no use of herbicides in any future vegetation maintenance. CTEC memo will be sent when the application is deemed complete.

CLOSED. General Permit application for expansion of pavement and buildings, 10-5-10, Metro PCS New York LLC, Block 48.16, Lot 117.27, 401-405 Southern Blvd. (DPW area.) For installation of cell antennas and infrastructure at the existing PSE&G transmission tower. Site previously inspected for another cell antenna application, no issues noted. F. Esposito and D. Stillinger inspected the site on 4-14-11. If equipment area ever needs to be expanded it may encroach into wetlands or transition areas. New equipment will be installed inside existing area. Needs to stay within 50' compound.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio. Planning Board reviewed Mountainview Road application and determined that this property lies within the R-3 zone but is adjacent to properties in an R-4 zone. Further the Planning Board found that when subdivided as requested by the applicant, the resulting lots would be compliant with the R-4 requirements but not for the R-3 without numerous variances. The applicant offered as justification a survey of adjacent properties in the R-3 zone which showed that many had similar deficiencies. The Planning Board agreed and adopted a resolution granting the variances requested. Because of the numerous variances approved for this application, Lou Caprioglio proposed to the Planning Board that a paragraph be added to the resolution which explained the special circumstances that justified the approval of the variances. This paragraph was included in the final resolution. CTEC members were enthusiastic to learn that Lou had required this addition of this special paragraph to the resolution.

Township Committee report. Township arborist created a landscaping plan for Colony Pool. The Township Committee has reviewed and is considering approving the model conservation easement agreement created by CTEC. D. Stillinger

Open Space Committee report. D. Travisano. Very close to closing on a new parcel of land. Revision of zoning ordinance in certain areas to include "residential farming" for family farmers. Special zoning for farm preservation in Green Village area. This can include a road side farm stand.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington.

1. Community Education & Outreach Committee, Pat Collington-Chair

Listed are only some accomplishments, as Earth "month" is really busy for us! For five of these events / activities (*) Pat organized and ran them; in two cases, Kathy and Pat contributed to them with work, publicity tasks, attendance, and etc.

- *Save it To Spade it Program-Give Away Composter Event: Saturday April 9, 10-12

- *Save it To Spade it Program- Free Workshop: Sat April 9, 10:30-11am Township Municipal Building
 - Green Team Recruiting Meeting- Tuesday April 12, 7:30pm, Municipal Building. Township Green Team seeks more members
 - *Save it To Spade it Program-Rocket Composter portion: Wednesday April 13, 3pm. The Rocket Composter ribbon cutting ceremony
 - Eco Film & Discussion Series: Thursday April 14, The Library of the Chatham's, 7:30pm. Eco Film & Discussion "A Chemical Reaction"
 - CTEC Annual E Day CleanUp-Saturday April 16, 2011, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. CTEC's 9th Annual Open Space Cleanup
 - *CTEC Booth at the annual SBS Earth Day Event: Thur April 27, 8:30- 2:30
 - *CTEC Booth at the annual CHS Earth Day Carnival-Saturday, April 30, 2011 10-2 PM
- 2. Green Fair**
- Chair for the township
 - Committee's first meeting Sat. April 2, 2011
 - Press Release #1
 - Committee's second meeting Friday, April 29, 7:30 – 10 pm
 - Application Packet drafting and preparation
 - Sponsorship search; letter of sponsorship (PGB)
- 3. Recycling & ReUse Committee (Pat Collington, Chair)**
- Emails to Mayor and to MC MUA
 - Bicycle Recycle: Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Washington Avenue School, 102 Washington Ave. Chatham, NJ.
- 4. Green Team**
- Continue to work CTEC programs and projects that earn SJ Points
 - Preparation of documentation for SJ Submission
 - Assisted with Green Team Recruiting Meeting- Tuesday April 12, 7:30pm, Municipal Building. Township Green Team seeks more members
 - Assisted neighboring municipalities in completing SJ tasks; Meetings with Borough's "green team"
- 5. Communications Committee**
- Updated dozens of entries on our CTEC Website
 - Designed eight info flyers for our website and municipal ECBB and TV pages
 - Invited by Patch.com to do video "green tips" (I did!) and a column—blog

Recycling Committee report. P. Collington. Mayor waiting for Morris County MUA quotes. Working on bicycle recycling program.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito, D. Travisano, P. Collington. Updates have been made to website, local TV channel and PATCH.com, check out green tips video on PATCH.com, checking into PATCH blog.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Discussed approval of letter to NJDEP opposing the proposed Waiver Rule. D. Stillinger. D. Travisano motioned to approve letter, P. Collington 2nd with all in favor.
- Discussed approval of memo to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump on Township property on Green Village Road. D. Stillinger. D. Travisano motioned to approve letter, P. Collington 2nd with all in favor.
- Model conservation easement agreement has been submitted to Township Committee for approval and resolution. D. Stillinger, L. Caprioglio.
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 4-18-11. Will consider doing most of the updating with volunteers. ANJEC has provided a CD with sample NRIs. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger.
- Parking lot expansion at Chatham High School - proposed 28,000 sq ft, \$500,000 parking lot addition on what is now "Chestnut Field" (behind CHS in beyond left field of CHS Varsity Baseball Field). Public hearing to be held. Pat Collington spoke of the proposed letter to the Board of Education regarding the location of the new parking lot. CTEC was approached by residents with concerns regarding parking lot. i.e., parking over a grassy field, the use of Colony Pool, installation of side walks, tree removal and the cost. K. Abbott motioned to approve draft letter with email edits, L. Caprioglio 2nd with all in favor. Enclosed with letter will be the Construction Planning Booklet.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2011. Letter to Chatham Township Committee concerning construction at Colony Pool. Letter to Chatham Township Committee concerning Open Space tax.

EVENTS

- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library.
- Saturday, May 7, 10 AM-4 PM. NJ Audubon Society May Day family festival. At the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Rd., Bernardsville, NJ 07924. www.njaudubon.org/go/MayDay. Free.
- Saturday, May 14, 2011, 8 am-5 pm. NJ Environmental Federation's 25th Anniversary Conference. Rutgers University Center for Law and Justice, Newark, NJ. Invited speakers: Lisa Jackson, Chris Christie. \$30. www.cleanwateraction.org/conf2011.
- Thursday, May 26, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Two new resource papers from ANJEC - on Environmental Commissions and on site plan/subdivision review.
- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Flyers & newsletters from ESRI.

CTEC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary